United Nations S/2009/482

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 September 2009

Original: English

Letter dated 23 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In reference to the concept paper for the Security Council summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, to be held on 24 September 2009 (S/2009/463), I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement of H.E. Mr. Kanat Saudabayev, Secretary of State — Minister of Foreign Affairs, of the Republic of Kazakhstan (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Byrganym **Aitimova**
Ambassador

09-52271 (E) 240909

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 23 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement by His Excellency Mr. Kanat Saudabayev, Secretary of State — Minister of Foreign Affairs, of the Republic of Kazakhstan, prepared for the Security Council summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The prospect of nuclear weapons proliferation, along with the risk of their acquisition and use by terrorist organizations, remains one of the most serious threats to mankind.

As a country that has experienced the horrors of nuclear tests, shut down the world's second largest nuclear testing site, and voluntarily renounced the world's fourth largest nuclear and missile arsenal, Kazakhstan has an absolute moral right to call for more decisive actions in the area of disarmament and the radical strengthening of the weapons of mass destruction non-proliferation regime.

In particular, Kazakhstan deems it important to ensure the soonest entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We are inspired by the intentions of U.S. President Barack Obama to give a new impetus to this process.

Kazakhstan stands for the strengthening and ensuring the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We have to acknowledge that the Treaty is asymmetric in providing sanctions only against non-nuclear-weapon States, although the nuclear powers themselves should set examples by reducing and renouncing their nuclear arsenals.

Today, it is necessary to take even more decisive actions. The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, has proposed to develop a new, universal comprehensive horizontal and vertical nuclear weapons non-proliferation treaty.

An effective measure to strengthen the non-proliferation regime could be the establishment of an international nuclear fuel bank under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and Kazakhstan is ready to consider the possibility of locating it on our territory.

One of the considerable contributions made by Kazakhstan and the Central Asian States to the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was the entry into force in March 2009 of the Treaty on the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in our region. The peculiarity of this zone is that it is located between the two largest nuclear powers. The zone could play a large practical role in preventing the uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear materials, as well as in fighting nuclear terrorism. We count on the support to the Central Asian zone, firstly, from the nuclear powers, meaning a possibility of providing negative security guarantees.

We support the U.S. initiative to hold the Global Nuclear Security Summit next year.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Security Council to the proposal of the President of Kazakhstan on announcing 29 August as the International Day for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons. On this day in 1949, the Soviet Union conducted its first nuclear test at the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Polygon, and on the same day, in 1991 the test site was shut down, once and for all, by our President's Decree.

Today, the time has more than come for all United Nations Member States to make decisive steps towards a world free from nuclear weapons, a world that is safer and better for all.

New York, 24 September 2009